

REMARKS

Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 9; the independent claim now specifies that the heating blocks are arranged in a vertical direction so that one heating block is disposed adjacently above another heating block. The claimed subject matter is clearly supported by Fig. 25 and its related discussion in the specification at page 20, line 19 to page 21, line 8.

The rejection of claims 7 to 9 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Ohno '536 in view of Chapman '669 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the primary reference teaches all of the features of the instant claims but for a showing that the heating board can be divided into a plurality of independently controlled heating blocks with temperature sensors. Chapman '669 is said to show such features. It is asserted in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to the artisan "to have divided the heating board into a plurality of independently controlled heating blocks because this would have allowed for the precise control of the heat imparted to the film as suggested by Chapman." Applicants

respectfully submit that the invention as claimed patentably defines over this combination of references.

Applicants do not dispute the Examiner's characterization of the primary reference. Chapman '669 shows in Fig. 1 an arrangement where the pre-heating device (38) is divided into a plurality of heating blocks. Those heating blocks are horizontally arranged. In contrast, the plurality of heating blocks in the present invention are arranged in the vertical direction. The references in combination do not suggest the claimed invention.

As described at page 20, line 29 to page 21, line 8 of the specification, conventionally, the higher the position of the pattern-bearing film to be heated, the higher its temperature. The structure of the present invention, however, calls for the heating board to be divided into a plurality of blocks along a vertical direction. Therefore, the temperatures of the respective blocks are individually controlled by the sensors, preventing the film temperature from ununiformly distributing. Chapman '669, moreover, relates to the use of gas catalytic heaters and has no discussion or awareness of the difference between having a vertical heating block arrangement and a horizontal heating block

arrangement. Reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of applicants' priority document in the parent case and for listing the references provided in an Information Disclosure Statement.

Favorable treatment of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARK-UP



Amended

7. (~~Now~~) An apparatus for forming a pattern onto an article during an injection molding thereof, comprising:

feed means that feeds a pattern-bearing film to a molding position where a male mold and a female mold are opposed;

a heating board that heats said pattern-bearing film so as to soften it, said heating board having a heating surface and being movable into and away from a space between said male mold and said female mold;

transfer means that transfers said pattern-bearing film to an internal surface of said female mold so as to contact said pattern-bearing film with said internal surface;

closing means that causes said male mold and said female mold with said pattern-bearing film therein to approach each other to form a closed molding cavity; and

a resin injecting device that injects a molten resin into said cavity to form a molded article to adhere said pattern-bearing film to the surface of said article;

(1) wherein said heating board is divided into a plurality of heating blocks, each of said blocks independently controlling heat generated by the block.

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2. And (2) Said heating blocks are arranged in a vertical direction so that one heating block is disposed adjacently above another heating block TC 1700